to contribute in their own way in case they do not want to grope in the dark by following certain restrictions;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi Vidyut Board propose to utilise its official machinery in any way from 25th July, 1997 to ensure that restrictions to save power are adhered to by consumers and offices of Delhi Vidyut Board utilising power at minimum tariff rates; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Delhi Vidyut Board had brought out an appeal for cooperation from public restricting use of air conditioners during peak hours; use of neon signs, decorative lighting, window displays during summer and to maintain the closure hours of the buisness establishments as per provisions of Delhi Shop and Establishment Act, till 31-8-1997.

(c) and (d) As per information given by the Delhi Vidyut Board, they have carried out raids during July, 1997 and detected 272 cases of A.C. violations, 220 cases of Neon sign violations and 280 cases of peak load/weakly off violations and necessary action for disconnection of supply in such cases have been initiated by them.

विद्युत कम्पनियों के संयुक्त उद्यम

2137. **श्री मूलचन्द मीणा :**
श्री अजीत जोगी :

क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने केन्द्रीय और राज्य सरकारों की विद्युत कम्पनियों को बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों के साथ संयुक्त उद्यम स्थापित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने का निर्णय लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1996 के दौरान हस्ताक्षरित विद्युत परियोजनाओं की कुल संख्या कितनी है और इन परियोजनाओं के पूर्ण होने पर कितनी विद्युत का उत्पादन होगा ;

(ग) उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं जिनके सहयोग से इन परियोजनाओं को स्थापित किया जा रहा है; और

(घ) क्या सभी विद्युत परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दे दी गयी है और उन्होंने अपना काम शुरू कर दिया है ?

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा विद्युत मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेन्द्र कुमार भगतराम अलघ) : (क) केन्द्र सरकार ने वर्ष 1993 में एनटीपीसी को अन्य कंपनियों के साथ एक संयुक्त उद्यम स्थापित करने की अनुमति प्रदान की थी जिसमें अन्य कंपनियां 25 प्रतिशत तक की इक्विटी के साथ छोटे साझेदार के रूप में होंगे । नवरत्न पैकेज के रूप में सरकार ने फिर संयुक्त उद्यम स्थापित करने के लिए एनटीपीसी को शक्तियां प्रदान की हैं जिसमें संयुक्त उद्यमों में निवेश इसकी परिसंपत्तियों के 20 प्रतिशत से अधिक नहीं होगा ।

(ख) वर्ष 1996 के दौरान किसी भी विद्युत परियोजना के संबंध में हस्ताक्षर नहीं किए गए थे ।

(ग) और (घ) उपरोक्त (ख) के उत्तर को मद्देनजर रखते हुए प्रश्न उत्पन्न नहीं होता ।

Misuse of Telephone facilities in CSIR Laboratories

2138. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Govt. are aware of the fact that in some of the CSIR Laboratories including CFTRI, CDRI

NML, STD telephones are being misused for the personal works;

(b) the details of telephone calls made and money paid in the above labs during the past six months;

(c) whether CSIR has any centralised plan/agency to monitor/check the misuse of the STD telephone installed in its labs; and

(d) if so, action taken against the misusers of STD telephones and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) No specific case of misuse of STD telephone facility in any of the CSIR national Labs/Insts. has been reported. The average monthly billing per connection at Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore; Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai and National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), Jamshedpur is not indicative of misuse of STD facilities, moreso, in view of the distance that separates each of these National Labs/Instts. from CSIR Hqrs. New Delhi and external agencies whose projects have been taken-up by these Labs/Instts. The average expenditure incurred, when viewed in light of the number of foreign and external projects handeld by each of these laboratories, appears moderate, least to suggest misuse of telephone facility. As a matter of fact, the extensive use of FAX machines for transmission of information/data and the E-mail networking adds substantially to the expenditure. At the same time use of these modern gadgetary is not at all avoidable in the present day order. Details of telephone billing of expenditure incurred in the three Labs/Instts. referred to are as follows:

Name of Labs./Instt.	Billing during the six monthly period between Jan.-June 1997 (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of telephone connections in the Lab./ Instt.	Average monthly billing per connection.
CFTRI	5.16	17	Rs. 5059.00
CLRI	11.30	58	Rs. 3247.00
NML	*3.80	39	Rs. 1624.00

* Amount includes only part bill that has been received for the months May—June 1997.

(c) Dynamic locking facility is used wherever it is available with a view to controlling expenditure. Additionally, Govt. of India orders/instructions for observing austerity are scrupulously adhered to by the council in all its Labs/Instts.

(d) Does not arise.

US pressure to amend patent laws

2139. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Government is pressurising for amending patent laws before negotiating formal science and technology agreement.

(b) if so, this bullying tactics of a super power is encroaching the sovereign right of the country and Parliament; and

(c) if so, whether Government have decided to take up the issue with the WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.